THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has received the requests from the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to sanction new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK).

(b) Out of the proposal received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for sanction of new KVKs in six districts, the Council has strengthened the existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) in Adilabad and Prakasham districts to take up the additional functions of KVKs under Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University. The Council has also restructured/readjusted the functioning of the KVK located at Nandiyal under the administrative control of University to implement its activities in the adjoining Cuddapah district. A new KVK has also been sanctioned for Krishna district recently. The Council do not have any proposal for establishment of KVK in Khammam and Nizamabad districts at present.

There are seven newly formed districts in Karnataka. Out of which, Gadag and Haven districts have Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK). The Zonal Agricultural Research Station (ZARS) in Udupi district has'been strengthened to take up the additional functions of KVK under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). Other four new districts, viz. Chamarajanagara, Koppal, Bagalkote and Devanagre are covered with the existing KVKs/ZARSs in the original districts from which these have been newly created.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, proposal has been received for establishment of KVKs in Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Vellore districts. The Council has requested the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for availability of suitable land for establishment of KVK in Tiruvarur district. The Council do not have any proposal for establishment of KVKs in Nagapattinam and Vellore districts.

Spreading scheme of chitrakoot farmer

5409. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in Chitrakoot, a farmer, who even holds two and a half acre of land, even after meeting all his expenses, saves about Rs.5000/- a year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the demonstration was shown, recently, to the In-charge of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to propagate such a scheme all over the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The demonstration was shown to the Director General of ICAR.

(c) to (e) Considering the wide variability in farming systems of such small and marginal farmers, technology modules of similar nature are identified based on the needs and resources of the farmers in one hand and farming systems compatibility of the technologies on the other. These technology modules are disseminated on location specific basis through a network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in various districts of the country.

The Council has also instituted Jagjivan Ram Kisan Puruskar and N.G. Ranga Farmer Award to encourage such innovative farmers.

Death of farmers due to pesticides

5410. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of farmers are dying due to exposure to pesticides, particularly cotton and related health hazards in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such deaths during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of amount/compensation paid to such victims by State Governments/Central Government or through insurance schemes, States-wise; and

<d) whether Government propose a policy for the benefit of such victim families; if so, the details thereof?